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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

LU, KUEN S

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2167

DATE MAILED: 04/26/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/883,598

Applicant(s)

SUBRAMANIAM ET AL.

Examiner

Kuen S Lu

Art Unit

2167

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 January 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 10-25 and 27-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 10-25 and 27-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendments

1. The Action is responsive to the Applicant's Amendments, filed on January 6, 2005. Noted is the amendments made to each of independent claims 1, 10, 16, 21 and 27.
2. In responding to Applicant's Amendments made to the claims where new issues were introduced to each of the independent claims, the Examiner has created this Office Action for Final Rejection as shown next.
3. As for the Applicant's Remarks on claim rejections, filed on January 6, 2005, has been fully considered by the Examiner, please see discussion in the section ***Response to Arguments***, following the Office Action for Final Rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claims 1 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In this case "performing a search on a plurality of database and at least one attached document for data records matching the search criteria using the search engine if the index field type indicates the search is to be performed on a file system, the file system storing the at least one attached document" search is performed on a file system if the index field type indicates so. However, if the index field type does not indicate file system, the data source upon which search is to

perform is indefinite. The Examiner interprets the search is to perform on databases if the index field type does not indicate file system. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

7. Claims 1-8, 10-25 and 27-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Underwood (U.S. Patent 6,718,535) and further in view of Polizzi et al. (U.S. Patent 6,643,661, hereafter "Polizzi").

As per claims 1, 10, 16 and 27, Underwood teaches the following:

"receiving search criteria" (See col. 225 - lines 10-29 and col. 226 - lines 35-45 wherein Underwood's search is performed based on issue type and title among other criteria in the search criteria group is equivalent to Applicant's receiving search criteria);

"defining an index field map object to map one or more business components to one or more result fields associated with a search engine, the index field map object including an index field type" (See cols. 30 - lines 58-60, 31 - lines 1-40, 37 - lines 40-50, 113 -

lines 20-23 and 120 - lines 35-43 wherein Underwood's view service captures user entry and business component, AFViewBOMapping component maps user interface entry field and the business component instances and persistence framework further maps business component object to a database table and data retrieval is through the indexes constructed on data fields is equivalent to Applicant's defining an index field map object to map one or more business components to one or more result fields associated with a search engine, the index field map object including an index field type).

Underwood teaches performing a search "at least one attached document for data records matching the search criteria using the search engine if the index field type indicates the search is to be performed on a file system, the file system storing the at least one attached document", although Underwood teaches performing a search on a plurality of databases by isolating business components to relational databases (See col. 90 - lines 43-53) and Underwood further teaches index field type limiting to indexes created on relational database table as previously described.

However, Polizzi teaches performing a search "at least one attached document for data records matching the search criteria using the search engine if the index field type indicates the search is to be performed on a file system, the file system storing the at least one attached document" (See Figs. 1, 3 and cols. 3 - lines 10-25, 4 - lines 44-54 and 10 - lines 46-57 wherein Polizzi's portal system identifies relational or unstructured data sources to be searched and utilizes search parameters to search objects assigned to categories and sub-categories to fine tune searching on specific files is equivalent to

Applicant's performing a search at least one attached document for data records matching the search criteria using the search engine if the index field type indicates the search is to be performed on a file system, the file system storing the at least one attached document).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention was made to combine Polizzi's teaching with the Underwood reference by implementing portal system in a e-commerce based activity framework because both references are directed to enterprise web-computing system, the combined reference would have enabled e-commerce based activity framework to utilize both structured and unstructured data simultaneously in the enterprise-wide computer such that user could have retrieved information in a standardized and easy-to-learn format via less complex and faster interfaces.

Underwood further teaches "generating search results comprising of the data records matching the received search criteria" (See Figs. 105-107 and col. 270 - lines 20-57 wherein Underwood's searches for SIRs, Change Controls and Reports are returned based on search criteria selected from the menu is equivalent to Applicant's generating search results comprising of the data records matching the received search criteria).

As per claim 21, Underwood teaches the following:

"a user interface to receive search criteria entered by a user" (See Figs. 83-85 and cols. 225 - lines 13-29 and 226 - lines 23-57 wherein Underwood's e-commerce issues are tracked by the tracker window); and

"a search engine associated with one or more result fields, the one or more result fields are mapped to one or more business components by an index field map object, the index field map object including an index field type" (See cols. 30 - lines 58-60, 31 - lines 1-40, 37 - lines 40-50, 113 - lines 20-23 and 120 - lines 35-43 wherein Underwood's view service captures user entry and business component, AFViewBOMapping component maps user interface entry field and the business component instances and persistence framework further maps business component object to a database table and data retrieval is through the indexes constructed on data fields is equivalent to Applicant's a search engine associated with one or more result fields, the one or more result fields are mapped to one or more business components by an index field map object, the index field map object including an index field type).

Underwood does not specifically teach receive the search criteria to search "at least one attached document for data records matching the search criteria using the search engine based on a value of the index field type", although Underwood teaches "a business service to receive the search criteria from the Virtual Business Component and to search on a plurality of databases" "for data records matching the search criteria using the search engine based on a value of the index field type" (See Figs. 83-85 and cols. 225 - lines 13-29 and 226 - lines 23-57 wherein Underwood's user entering criteria on the tracker window for tracking and searching e-commerce issues from databases is equivalent to Applicant's a business service to receive the search criteria from the Virtual Business Component and to search on a plurality of databases for data records matching the search criteria using the search engine based on a value of the index field

type wherein the index field type is limited to indexes created on relational database table as previously described).

However, Polizzi teaches performing a search "at least one attached document for data records matching the search criteria using the search engine based on a value of the index field type" (See Figs. 1, 3 and cols. 3 - lines 10-25, 4 - lines 44-54 and 10 - lines 46-57 wherein Polizzi's portal system identifies relational or unstructured data sources to be searched and utilizes search parameters to search objects assigned to categories and sub-categories to fine tune searching on specific files is equivalent to Applicant's performing a search at least one attached document for data records matching the search criteria using the search engine if the index field type indicates the search is to be performed on a file system, the file system storing the at least one attached document).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention was made to combine Polizzi's teaching with the Underwood reference by implementing portal system in a e-commerce based activity framework because both references are directed to enterprise web-computing system, the combined reference would have enabled e-commerce based activity framework to utilize both structured and unstructured data simultaneously in the enterprise-wide computer such that user could have retrieved information in a standardized and easy-to-learn format via less complex and faster interfaces.

The combined Polizzi and Underwood reference teaches "a Virtual Business Component (VBC) to receive the search criteria from the user interface if the user

requested a search on at least one external database” (See Polizzi: Fig. 1 and col. 4 - lines 26-43 wherein Polizzi’s portal system brokering services agents to perform search is equivalent to Applicant’s a Virtual Business Component, and Underwood: Figs. 83-85 and cols. 225 - lines 13-29 and 226 - lines 23-57 wherein Underwood’s user entering criteria on the tracker window for tracking and searching e-commerce issues from databases is equivalent to Applicant’s receiving the search criteria from the user interface if the user requested a search on at least one external database).

As per claims 2, 17 and 22, Polizzi further teaches “receiving search criteria further comprises receiving at least one search category entered by a user” (See Fig. 3 and cols. 3 - lines 10-20 and 10 - lines 46-57 wherein Polizzi’s searches are performed based on categories, subcategories, parameters, objects and locations selected is equivalent to Applicant’s receiving search criteria further comprises receiving at least one search category entered by a user).

As per claims 3, 18 and 23, Polizzi further teaches “receiving search criteria further comprises receiving at least one search keyword entered by a user” (See col. 14 - lines 41-44 wherein Polizzi’s keywords are used to make the job easier to find by a user using the search feature of the portal is equivalent to Applicant’s receiving search criteria further comprises receiving at least one search keyword entered by a user).

As per claim 28, Polizzi further teaches “receiving search criteria further comprises receiving at least one search category and at least one search keyword” (See Fig. 3 and cols. 3 - lines 10-20, 10 - lines 46-57 and 14 - lines 41-44 wherein Polizzi’s searches are performed based on categories, subcategories, parameters, objects and locations selected and keywords are used to make the job easier to find by a user using the search feature of the portal is equivalent to Applicant’s receiving search criteria further comprises receiving at least one search category and at least one search keyword).

As per claims 4, 11 and 31, Polizzi further teaches “passing the received search criteria to a Virtual Business Component (VBC) if the single search is to be performed on at least one external database” (See Fig. 1 and col. 4 - lines 44-65 wherein Polizzi’s users perform search via network and web client and passing the search to portal to perform on external databases is equivalent to Applicant’s passing the received search criteria to a Virtual Business Component (VBC) if the single search is to be performed on at least one external database).

As per claims 5 and 12, Polizzi further teaches “passing the received search criteria from the Virtual Business Component to a search execution business service” (See Fig. 1 and col. 4 - lines 44-65 wherein Polizzi’s users perform search via network and web client and passing the search to portal to perform on external databases is equivalent to Applicant’s passing the received search criteria from the Virtual Business Component to a search execution business service).

As per claims 6, 13 and 24, Polizzi further teaches “using a search execution business service to search the plurality of databases for data records matching the search criteria” (See See Fig. 3 and cols. 3 - lines 10-20, 10 - lines 46-57 and 14 - lines 41-44 wherein Polizzi’s searches are performed based on categories, subcategories, parameters, objects and locations selected and keywords are used to make the job easier to find by a user using the search feature of the portal is equivalent to Applicant’s using a search execution business service to search the plurality of databases for data records matching the search criteria); and

“using the search execution business service to search the at least one attached document in the file system for data record-s matching the search criteria” (See See Figs. 1, 3 and cols. 3 - lines 10-25, 4 - lines 44-54 and 10 - lines 46-57 wherein Polizzi’s portal system identifies unstructured data sources to be searched and utilizes search parameters to search objects assigned to categories and sub-categories to fine tune searching on specific files is equivalent to Applicant’s using the search execution business service to search the at least one attached document in the file system for data record-s matching the search criteria).

As per claims 7, 14, 19, 25 and 29, Underwood further teaches “sending the search results to a frame so that the search results can be listed on a user interface” (See Figs. 84-85 wherein Underwood’s windows list details of issue log returned from search is

equivalent to Applicant's sending the search results to a frame so that the search results can be listed on a user interface).

As per claims 8, 15, 20 and 30, Polizzi further teaches "displaying content of a search result selected from the search results listed on the user interface" (See Fig. 10 wherein Polizzi's web browser displays portal page is equivalent to Applicant's displaying content of a search result selected from the search results listed on the user interface).

Response to Arguments

8. The Applicant's arguments filed on January 6, 2005, have been considered but they are moot on new grounds of rejection.

9. The prior art made of record

H. U.S. Patent No. 6718535

I. U.S. Patent No. 6643661

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

A. U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0169771

B. U.S. Patent No. 6070160

C. U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0147704

D. U.S. Patent No. 6401118

E. U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0156779

F. U.S. Patent No. 6553310
G. U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0138481

Conclusions

10. THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.

The Applicants are reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

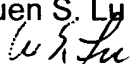
11. The prior art made of record, listed on form PTO-892, and not relied upon, if any, is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

If a reference indicated as being mailed on PTO-FORM 892 has not been enclosed in this action, please contact Lisa Craney whose telephone number is 571-272-3574 for faster service.

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kuen S Lu whose telephone number is 571-272-4114. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 AM to 5 PM, Monday through Friday.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Breene can be reached on 571-272-4107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-2100.

Kuen S. Lu

Patent Examiner

April 19, 2005


Luke Wassum

Primary Examiner

April 19, 2005